

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3153
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AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
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AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.)
SUBJECT: VISIT OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE - DRAFT TOAST

REF: STATE 76095

1 FOLLOWING IS PROPOSED TOAST FOR VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE
AT MAY 4 STATE DINNER.

MR. PRIME MINISTER, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS:

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR WARM WELCOME AND ELOQUENT EXPRESSION
OF GOOD WILL TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES. IT IS A GREAT
EXPERIENCE FOR US TO HAVE THIS OPPURTUNITY TO VISIT THAILAND,
WHICH IS ONE OF AMERICA'S OLDEST AND CLOSEST FRIENDS IN ASIA.

I HAVE COME HERE AT THE PERSONAL REQUEST OF PRESIDENT CARTER
AND MY VISIT IS EVIDENCE OF MY COUNTRY'S COMMITMENT TO THE
EXPANSION OF ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND CULUTRAL TIES
WITH THE NATIONS OF EAST ASIA. TOWARD THAT END, THE UNITED
STATES IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED, ON BOTH GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE
LEVELS, IN FORGING A NEW SET OF RELATIONSHIPS WITH TRADITIONAL
FRIENDS AS WELL AS FORMER ADVERSARIES, THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE
TO OUR MUTUAL PROSPERITY AS WELL AS TO THE CAUSE OF A DURABLE
AND JUST PEACE.

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TODAY, I HAD A MOST PRODUCTIVE TALK WITH THE PRIME MINISTER
AND OTHERS AMONG YOUR LEADERS, IN WHICH WE DISCUSSED, IN A
GENERAL WAY, HOW OUR COUNTRIES CAN COOPERATE BOTH FOR OUR MUTUAL
BENEFIT AND FOR THE OVERALL PROGRESS OF THE NATIONS OF THE PACIFIC
BASIN. MRS. MONDALE AND I WERE ESPECIALLY PRIVILEGED TO SPEND A MOST
REWARDING HOUR WITH THEIR MAJESTIES, THE KING AND QUEEN.
IN ALL OF OUR MEETINS TODAY, I WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPOR-

TUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR UNIQUE AND FASCINATING COUNTRY. I WAS MUCH IMPRESSED WITH THE FORWARD-LOOKING IDEAS OF YOUR LEADERS, AND WITH THEIR CONCERN FOR IMPROVING THE WELL-BEING OF ALL THE THAI PEOPLE.

AS YOU ALL KNOW, AMERICA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THAILAND GOES BACK TO THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY. IT WAS WITH THAILAND IN 1833 THAT WE SIGNED OUR FIRST TREATY WITH AN ASIAN GOVERNMENT. OUR LONG AND UNBROKEN FRIENDSHIP WITH THAILAND ANTEDATES OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ANY OTHER NATION OF EAST ASIA. AND WHILE OUR FIRST EARLY CONTACTS WERE NOT EXTENSIVE AND MAINLY CONCERNED COMMERCE, IT WAS DURING THE REIGN OF THE GREAT KING MONGKUT THAT OUR TWO NATIONS BEGAN TO DEVELOP A GENUINE INTEREST IN ONE ANOTHER. IN A LETTER TO PRESIDENT JAMES BUCHANAN IN 1861, KING MONGKUT PAID OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM A GREAT COMPLIMENT. AFTER NOTING THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ELECTED A PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT TO SERVE FOR A LIMITED TERM OF OFFICE, THE KING WENT ON TO WRITE:

"THAT THIS CUSTOM SHOULD CONTINUE FOR SO LONG A PERIOD AND NO DISTURBANCE ARISE OR STRIFE TO OBTAIN POSSESSION OF THE SUPREME POWER AS IS CONSTANTLY OCCURRING IN OTHER COUNTRIES, IS VERY REMARKABLE INDEED AND THE CUSTOM IS WORTHY OF ALL PRAISE."

IN 1862, ABRAHAM LINCOLN CLOSED A LETTER TO KING MONGKUT WITH WISHES FOR "A LONG AND HAPPY LIFE, AND FOR THE GENEROUS AND EMULOUS PEOPLE OF SIAM THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE PROSPERITY, I COMMEND BOTH TO THE BLESSING OF ALMIGHTY GOD. YOUR GOOD FRIEND, ABRAHAM LINCOLN."

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SINCE THAT TIME, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THAILAND HAS, OF COURSE, CHANGED, IN RESPONSE TO NEW CIRCUMSTANCES. INDEED, A SPECIAL BOND HAS GROWN, IN MY VIEW, THE BOND EXISTS BECAUSE IT TRANSCENDS THE COMMERCIAL AND POLITICAL INTERESTS OF THE MOMENT, AS IMPORTANT AS THESE ARE. DESPITE OUR VERY DIFFERENT HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CIRCUMSTANCES, I THINK THAT THE THAI PEOPLE AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SHARE TWO VERY FUNDAMENTAL VALUES--THE DETERMINATION TO REMAIN FREE, AND TOLERANCE FOR PEOPLE DIFFERENT FROM THEMSELVES.

THE RESTORATION OF THE THAI STATE AFTER THE FALL OF AYUDHAYA (AH-YU-TEE-YA) OCCURRED AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME AS THE FOUNDING OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. SINCE THAT TIME, THE EXTREMELY ABLE LEADERS OF YOUR COUNTRY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PRESERVE THAILAND'S INDEPENDENCE EVEN DURING TIMES OF GREAT POWER RIVALRY AND ENCROACHMENT IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD, BY THE USE OF ASTUTE DIPLOMACY AND A THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF CURRENT POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS. UNDERLYING THESE DIPLOMATIC SKILLS, OF COURSE, WAS THE DETERMINATION OF YOUR COUNTRY TO REMAIN FREE AND INDEPENDENT. I AM SURE THAT THESE SKILLS, WHICH HAVE EXEMPLIFIED THAILAND'S SUCCESSFUL DIPLOMACY SO OFTEN IN THE PAST, WILL SERVE THE COUNTRY AGAIN IN THE PRESENT ERA, AS THAILAND SEEKS TO BUILD NEW RELATIONSHIPS WITH NEIGHBORING CO

UNTRIES.

IN THIS REGARD, MY GOVERNMENT HAS NOTED WITH ADMIRATION, MR. PRIME MINISTER, YOUR CONCERTED AND PATIENT EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE INDOCHINA NATIONS. WE SUPPORT YOUR EFFORTS AND WISH YOU SUCCESS IN PROMOTING THE CAUSE OF PEACE IN THIS LONG- TROUBLED AREA.

THE UNITED STATES IS PROUD OF ITS HISTORICAL SUPPORT FOR THAI INDEPENDENCE. WE ARE GRATIFIED TO NOTE THE CONTRIBUTIONS IN AN EARLIER PERIOD MADE BY PROFESSOR FRANCIS B. SAYRE, IN SUPPORT OF YOUR EFFORTS TO RID THE COUNTRY OF THE LAST VESTIGES OF EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY.

I AM SURE THAT SOME OF YOU HERE TONIGHT PARTICIPATED IN THE FREE THAI MOVEMENT, AND WILL REMEMBER THE CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNDERGROUND AND AMERICANS IN WORLD WAR 11. AS YOU LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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KNOW, IT WAS AMERICAN POLICY THEN "TO REGARD THAILAND AS AN INDEPENDENT STATE" TO WHICH COMPLETE FREEDOM AS

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A SOVEREIGN STATE SHOULD BE ACCORDED IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE WAR. THAT PERCEPTION OF THAI INDEPENDENCE HAS PERMEATED OUR POLICY TOWARD THAILAND SINCE THAT TIME.

WE ALSO NOTE THAT, WHEN YOUR COUNTRY INITIATED ITS EXTRA- ORDINARY AND ENLIGHTENED DRIVE TOWARD MODERNIZATION, AMANY

AMERICANS WERE ABLE TO ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND ADAPTATION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND REFORMS WHICH COULD BE APPLIED IN THE FIELDS OF AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION, AND INDUSTRY. IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT THIS MODERNIZATION PROCESS, WHICH IS STILL GOING ON IN ALL COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD INCLUDING OUR OWN, HAS BEEN EXTREMELY RAPID IN THAILAND, BUT HAS TAKEN PLACE WITH RELATIVELY LITTLE SOCIAL UPHEAVAL, AND WITH THE PRESERVATION OF YOUR MOST CHERISHED TRADITIONS AND INSTITUTIONS.

IN ADDITION TO OUR COMMON COMMITMENT TO FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE, I SHOULD ALSO MENTION OUR LONG MUTUAL HISTORY OF TOLERANCE AND RESPECT FOR OTHERS. ALTHOUGH BUDDHISM IS ONE OF THE PILLARS OF THE THAI NATION AND CULTURE, YOU HAVE PERMITTED FREEDOM OF WORSHIP FOR ALL FAITHS. YOU CONTINUE THIS LONG TRADITION OF HOSPITALITY AND TOLERANCE BY RECEIVING REFUGEES FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. MY COUNTRY IS EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO THAILAND FOR HELPING TO SHOULDER THIS INTERNATIONAL RELIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPONSIBILITY, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING MUTUAL EFFORTS IN THIS MATTER OF SUCH GREAT HUMANITARIAN CONCERN.

MR. PRIME MINISTER, SOUTHEAST ASIA HAS ENTERED A NEW ERA, WHICH OFFERS NEW CHALLENGES AND POTENTIAL. AT THE SAME TIME THAT THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO FORGE NEW LINKS TO OVERCOME FORMER ANIMOSITIES, THERE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND THE RANGE AND DIVERSITY OF POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH OLD AND TRADITIONAL FRIENDS. THE UNITED STATES TAKES PARTICULAR ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED WITHIN THE ASEAN FRAMEWORK. THE COMMITMENT OF THE FIVE ASEAN NATIONS TO GREATER REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT IS NOW BEYOND QUESTION. IN ADDITION A MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ASEAN HAS ALREADY COMMENCED AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO BUILDING ON THAT FOUNDATION IN THE MONTHS AHEAD.

THE UNITED STATES, WHICH HAS HAD A LONG AND INCREASINGLY COMPLEX RELATIONSHIP WITH EAST ASIA, IS UNALTERABLY COMMITTED TO A MAJOR ROLE IN THE PACIFIC. THIS ROLE MAY EVOLVE OVER TIME, BUT THERE SHOULD BE NO DOUBT THAT IT IS PERMANENT. DESPITE THE SHIFT AWAY FROM DIRECT MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN RECENT YEARS, OUR OVERALL RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE NATIONS OF THIS AREA ARE STRONGER AND THE SUM TOTAL OF OUR INTERACTIONS ARE GROWING DRAMATICALLY EVERY YEAR. IT IS NO DENIGRATION OF OUR TRADITIONAL AND VITAL INTERESTS WITH THE ATLANTIC COMMUNITY TO STRESS THAT OUR COMMERCE AND TRADE WITH EAST ASIA ARE GROWING AT A FASTER RATE THAN WITH ANY OTHER PART OF THE WORLD. IN FACT, AMERICAN TRADE WITH EAST ASIA IS ALREADY GREATER THAN WITH THE EEC. THIS DEVELOPMENT ROUGHLY PARALLELS THE RAPID GAINS IN POPULATION GROWTH AND ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INFLUENCE OF THE WESTERN PORTIONS OF OUR OWN COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT BORDER ON THE PACIFIC OCEAN.

THE CHANGES THA HAVE ACCOMPANIED NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND
EVOLVING RELATIONSHIPS IN THIS AREA SHOOLD NOT BE MISCONSTRUED.
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OUR ECONOMIC WELL-BEING, VITAL POLITICAL INTEREST, AND ULTIMA-
TELY OUR PHYSICAL SECURITY ARE INEXTRICABLE LINKED WITH THE NATIONS
OF THE PACIFIC. WE ARE NOW, AND INTEND TO REMAIN, A PACIFIC
POWER WITH BOTH THE CAPABILITY AND THE WILL TO INSURE THAT OUR
INVOLVEMENT CONTRIBUTES TO BALANCED AND JUST ECONOMIC GROWTH
AND ENHANCES PROSPECTS FOR PEACE AND SECURITY FOR ALL THE PACIFIC
NATIONS.

OUR RELATIONSHIP IS A ONG AND FRIENDLY ONE. IT HAS, I
BELIEVE, BEEN MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE SO.
OUR COMMITMENT TO A FREE, INDEPENDENT THAILAND IS UNALTERED.
YOU MAY BE ASSURED THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THAILAND'S
EFFORTS TO BUILD A PROSPEROUS, STRONG AND JUSTSOCIETY AT HOME,
AND TO ATTAIN A LASTING PEACE IN THIS AREA.

I RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES WITH A STRONG FEELING FOR THE
MAJOR ROLE THAILAND IS PLAYING. I HOPE THAT I CAN LEAVE WITH
YOU THE CONFIDENCE THAT WE IN THE UNITED STATES VALUE YOUR
FRIENDSHIP, YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND
YOUR CONTINUED INDEPENDENCE AND PROSPERITY. WE WILL BE DOING
EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO INSURE THAT THE CLIMATE FOR THESE
ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS IS NARTURED AND ALLOWED TO THRIVE.

MR. PRIME MINISTER, YOUR RXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMET,
IN THE SPIRIT OF OUR WARM AND SPECIAL FRIENDSHIP, I INVITE YOU
TO JOIN ME IN A TOAST TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING.

2. REFTEL ATTRIBUTES KING MONGKUT'S QUOTE AS BEING IN 1861
LETTER TO PRESIDENT PIERCE HOWEVER BELIEVE AS INDICATED ABOVE,
THAT REFERENCE IS TO FEBRUARY 14, 1861 LETTER ADDRESSED TO
PRESIDENT BUCHANAN.
WHITEHOUSE

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